

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

January 11, 2010

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, January 11, 2010, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 21, 2009, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on December 21, 2009, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Sean McGarry reported that he has received emails from RIASC regarding the possibility of applying for reimbursement for various state mandates. However, most of the listed mandates are not education, but town related, such as police coverage, training, and

fire code issues.

Mr. Hicks reported that with the fiscal year at the midpoint, approximately 46 percent of the budget has been expended and we are on track for the remainder of the year. A discussion was held on whether over expended line items needed to come before the School Committee or if the administration can handle the budget with an eye on the bottom line. A motion (Padien, Hall) that an anticipated over expenditure in any department of the current budget must be addressed by the School Committee prior to the over expenditure carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the fiscal report through December 31, 2009, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Principal John Canole reported that the Student Handbook has been consolidated with the Athletic Handbook and the Program of Studies. Because the handbook has grown in size it is available on the school's web site. It is a living document and will be changing constantly, but a printed copy will be made available to each family at the beginning of the year. It was suggested that students and parents be given a choice to receive a printed copy of the handbook or view it electronically. Mr. Hicks commended Mr. Canole for his hard work in updating the handbook.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Policy DEA: Application for Use of School Facilities as presented, posted for the required 30-days, and approved last month carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the fee schedule as presented in Policy DEA carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the request from Jim and Marion Ortel to home school their son, Wade, for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve the request from Gail Ballard Hall to home school her son, Griffen, while on an extended family vacation from February 3-12, 2010, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the request of Kate Butcher to home school her children, Julia and Caleb, while on an extended family vacation from February 1-12, 2010, carried with a vote of 4-0 with Shea Butcher having recused himself.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the request from Jennifer Brady Brown to home school her children, Alex and Savannah, while on an extended family vacation from February 4-12, 2010, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Kristine Monje's request, pursuant

to the terms and conditions of the School Committee/ Teachers' Contract, for tuition reimbursement for two courses (Motivational Theory and Classroom Management; School Finance) she plans to take towards her Masters degree carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted a draft of the 2010-2011 budget, which is the first developed under the Uniform Chart of Accounts. He thanked Fiscal Clerk Yordanka Martin for her tremendous effort and work in putting the budget together. Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Martin started the proposed budget from scratch and found it smaller than anticipated, with not much flexibility. The budget will have to be adhered to scrupulously to avoid deficit spending. The plan was to review revenue this evening and have Maintenance Supervisor Amy Doran Couet, Athletic Director Rob Closter, and Special Education Director William Anderson attend the workshops on January 19 and February 2 to answer any questions regarding their sections of the budget.

Mr. Hicks stated that the proposed operational budget has increased 0.75 percent over last year, but the request to the town is 2.68 percent higher because of the loss of state aid and the removal of federal funds from the budget. The food service revenues were held at \$60,000 while we are still establishing our base for this year with the Aramark contract. The state aid was budgeted as level to the Governor's proposed three percent decrease in the current year's funding, but this may have to be revisited because of Rhode Island's financial crisis. Mr. Hicks worked to keep federal funds out of the

budget, but noted that if the federal funds are not forthcoming, money would have to be made up from local appropriations.

William Padien requested that this item be placed on the agenda to start the discussion with Mr. Hicks to renew his contract for an additional year. An evaluation will be scheduled and completed prior to renewing his contract.

Calendar of Events

Interim meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, January 19 and Tuesday, February 2. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2010.

Correspondence

Correspondence was forwarded for School Committee information.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:35 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 10:04 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 10:04 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: February 8, 2010